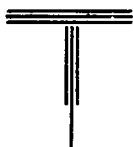
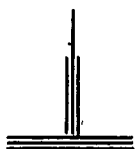


Manitoba Farmers' Union



MANIFESTO



**Head Office:
GILBERT PLAINS, MANITOBA**

M.F.U. MANIFESTO

NO ORGANIZED group of Industrial or professional labourers would have tolerated the wage cuts that the farmers endured and not have done something definite and direct about it.

If the wages of miners were cut 20% there would not be a ton of coal mined. If the wages of Railway men were cut 20% there would not be a train moving between Halifax and Vancouver. Cut the wages of the factory workers in our Automotive Industries and see what would happen.

They, one and all, would withhold their services from industry for which they work. They would tie up the industry of the country as a definite protest against the lowering of their living standards.

Yet we, the farmers of Manitoba, some 100,000 of us whose Agricultural products inject new life-blood into the industrial set-up of this country, and without whose new produce the industry of this country would die—we have had our wages cut immensely and we have not done anything about it. We have not even organized into a membership organization; therefore, we are not controlling our own interests. We have been content in the past to put in more crop each year and raise more stock in the vain hope that next year things would take a turn for the better. Only to find the more grain and livestock we raised, the more mother nature rewarded our increased industry—the poorer the prices we received and the more poverty stricken our condition became.

Helpless in the matter of prices we have to pay for our machinery, groceries, clothing, etc.; helpless in the matter of prices that are dictated to us for the produce we have to sell; faced with more powerful combines and associations of Packers, Machine Companies, Oil Companies, Financial concerns and Manufact-

urers than this Dominion has ever known, who, using their tremendous combined power, economic and financial, have entrenched themselves in the commercial and political life of this country. Before them we, the unorganized Farmers of Canada are helpless.

Farming of tomorrow is a more costly business than it has been in the past. Owing to the deficient condition of our soil, fertilizer has to be supplied. The farm of today has to be equipped with more modernized and costly machinery than in past history.

The time has come when we must follow the example of our fellow labourers, the miners, railway men and industrial corporations, and organize into our union, regardless of national origin, political affiliation or religious creed. They have seen fit to submerge their differences of politics, nationality and religion and unite together for mutual benefits and self-protection.

When the organization work is sufficiently advanced, it is the intention of this organization, when the situation warrants, and all other means fail to meet our demands which must be in fairness and provide a fair share of our national income to place into action our direct-action policy in the way of non-buying of machinery strike, and non-delivery of agricultural products, backing up the farmers in other provinces and working in close conjunction with them. In other words, adopt the same methods as the organized labourers, and withhold our produce from the industrial set-up the way they withhold their services from the industrial concerns for whom they work, and a definite, direct way of protest against the lowering of their living standards.

- Follow the wages of the organized labourers, the dividends paid by organized corporations, organizing together, has been good medicine for them and it is logical to assume that it would be good medicine for us also.

To that end this organization is working. We believe in combining our educa-

tional organization here in Manitoba, together with those in other Provinces. We are definitely wanting to see established an inter-provincial farmers' union council of all the provinces, a union that will speak for the farmers of Canada before the industrial powers and federal authorities of this Dominion with one mighty voice, a voice that will be heard and not ignored. This Manitoba Farmers' Union organization has been sponsored by a group of farmers in a rural community. Our reason for this formation was the unjust share of the National Income we are receiving in this year, nineteen hundred and forty-seven. We believe it to have been forced on us. We have positively no connection with any political party and intend to remain that way. Members of the board comprise only farmers, representing all political shades of opinion in the province. They have submerged their differences and are working together with one goal in view and that is to organize under direct membership the farmers of this province and all Canada into a powerful militant farmers' Union that will effectively promote and protect our interests.

We plead with you to become a member of this organization. You can help build and mold its destiny. Only by large membership can we be effective. We, the farmers of Manitoba, must prove that we have red blood in our veins, and that no longer will we tolerate a condition of economic poverty and future insecurity in our occupation.

We farmers must put our buying and selling powers together, as the farmers of the United States, Denmark, and Sweden are doing. This organization asks all farmers to patronize all the farm commercial enterprises and co-operatives that are so essential to our way of life. These organizations must be owned and controlled by the man on the land and at all times democratically administered from the ground up by the actual producer.

One third of the people of the Dominion are engaged in agriculture but receive

only one-twelfth of the income. This organization stands definitely for parity prices and believes, in all fairness to us farmers, that the federal government should implement a policy of parity prices without delay so that the income of the agricultural population be in conformity with others who comprise our citizenship, and farmers, therefore receive an equitable share of the National Income. "Parity of Prices means--A proper relationship of prices must prevail at all times, so that the prices received for agricultural products shall enable farmers to buy an equivalent amount of goods or services produced or rendered by any other occupational group."

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES— MANITOBA FARMERS' UNION

1. To build a powerful farmers' organization within the province to give weight to legitimate demands.
2. To establish an inter-provincial farm board so that unified action on the part of the farmers may take place.
3. To establish more equitable returns for our produce so a higher standard of living and a greater sense of security may result.
4. Co-ordination of all farmers' organizations and co-operative enterprise.
5. The establishing of Parity Prices.

Provincial Constitution

Name of Organization

The name of this organization to be:
MANITOBA FARMERS' UNION.

Aims and Purposes of the Organization

This organization to work in close harmony and cohesion with all farmers to take whatever legitimate means to press our claims for economic justice from the political and industrial powers to be; to build a powerful organization in order to give backing to justified claims. .

Strictly Non-Political

The status of this organization to be strictly non-political and under no circumstances is the organization to be used to promote welfare of any political party.

Qualifications of Membership

(1) All members to be farmers actually residing on farms; (2) or residing on farms part time and sympathetic to the organization. This is left to the local to decide and must be borne in mind that while a precedent should not be made in the anxiety of getting members to join the Union, membership open to farmers in the latter category must derive at least 60% of their income from the farm.

THE BOARD

All members of the Executive and Board are to be bonafide farmers and paid up members of the Association. The Executive Board shall comprise the following: President, Vice-president, Three members of the Executive elected by Provincial Convention, and Directors elected from each district in the Province of Manitoba. The Board of Directors to be elected by the delegates at the district convention with the exception of the Secretary and Treasurer to be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Duties of the Board

The President or Secretary shall call meetings of the Board whenever a situation arises and they deem it advisable to do so. The Board may call a convention at any time that necessity dictates, but one convention a year must be held. The Board may hire any Technical help that the successful operation of this organization may dictate.

The Executive must keep in close touch with all happenings, economic and political, which may effect the welfare of the farmers. They are the responsible guardians of the farmers' interest and must implement all resolutions, and other re-

quests that are not injurious to the integrity of the organization.

Delegates

Each local shall be entitled to one delegate at the Provincial Convention for each ten members or the major portion thereof and to be appointed at a duly called meeting of the local. Membership dues to be in good standing.

Amendments

All amendments to this constitution to be by two-thirds majority vote. Additional clauses and amendments to this constitution may be made at any duly called convention, with exception of the basic clause regarding its non-political status that cannot be changed at any convention.

Local Constitution

1. Any five farmers may form a local, and will be given assistance to organize from head office, if necessary.
2. Each Local shall elect a President, Vice-president and at least two Directors and a Secretary-treasurer, who may be one of the Directors.
3. The membership fee at present is \$1.00 per annum which must be sent to Central Secretary-Treasurer by the local secretary immediately. No changes in membership fees can be made except by delegates at annual convention. The fee for local expenses is to be set by the members of the local, and each local must give financial and moral assistance to Head Office at all times, and also to provide a fund in central office, from time to time, as directed by the Executive and Board in carrying out the decision of the delegates at the Annual Convention, and this fund to be known as an Action Fund and is to be used as such when directed by the delegates at the Annual Convention.
4. Failing just and equitable recognition of organized farmers' requests, farmers must be prepared to take Direct

Action in organized intelligent manner. Such action is constitutionally legal, and by the Trades Union reasoning that "a fair day's pay for a fair day's work" is required to ensure a decent living and working efficiency. A parity price return for the products of agricultural labor is necessary to effectively maintain occupational security and provide equitable living conditions. No business, trade or occupation, can operate at a loss indefinitely. Farmers must, therefore, in defence of their occupation and their living decide that no farm products will be made available to others, if for any reason beyond the farmers' own control price values drop below production costs.

5. All members of the organization are to be farmers actually residing on farms, or residing on farms part time and sympathetic to the organization. This is left to the local to decide and it must be borne in mind that while a precedent should not be made in the anxiety of getting members to join the Union, membership in the second instant is open only to farmers who derive at least 60% of their income from the farm.
6. Those joining any time prior to end of fiscal year December 31, will be considered a member for that year only. All farmers' wives, sons and daughters over 18 and residing on farms will be considered members on payment of \$1.00 each.
7. Each local to be run on a strictly non-political basis. It will be the responsibility of the President to see that this is carried out.
8. But legislation which affects the welfare of the farmers may be freely discussed.
9. This organization is open to all farmers and their wives, regardless of Politics, Racial origin or Religious beliefs, but will not tolerate any foreign doctrine injurious to the welfare of this

country. Thus paving the way for united action on the part of farmers to achieve economic and social justice.

10. Irrespective of what political party is in power, it must be remembered that that party is elected to represent and administer to its people, and the Union must press for the implementation of their resolutions and see that whatever government is in power, gives due consideration to agriculture's problems, because agriculture population composes a large section of the voting power in our province.
11. The union must be ever ready to service its membership by taking up problems of the individuals, as well as in group, to the powers that be and get action on them—or know the reason why.

Order of Local Meetings

1. Dealing with applications for membership and obligations.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and business arising thereon.
3. Reports on committees.
4. Communication from central Secretary and action thereon.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New Business.
7. Date of next meeting and place.
8. Adjournment.
9. "National Anthem".

Instructions on How to Form a Local

The meeting is called to order by the person responsible for calling same. A chairman and secretary are appointed. The chairman calls on the opener of the meeting to explain the purpose of calling the meeting. He then explains the M.F.U. A farmer moves and another seconds that a local be formed. After discussion the motion is put to vote. If it carries, the chairman calls for sign-up of members (five being necessary to form a local).

After the sign-up of members takes place the chairman calls for nomination by members. If a vote is necessary the nominee with the majority becomes President. The President then takes the chair and calls for the nomination of a Vice-President, Secretary and then two or more Directors who are elected by a similar procedure. The Secretary collects the membership dues, issuing receipts for same and forwards the names of members and dues along with a short report of the meeting to the Central Secretary, who will in turn, issue a receipt for dues and forward membership cards, along with other matter to the local secretary. The local is then established and entitled to take part in all discussions relative to Union activities or business and send delegates to the Annual Convention to outline Policy.

Suggestions on "How to Keep Your Local Alive"

You must keep it alive and this depends on every member turning out to every meeting and discussing freely problems that confront the farming industry.

We as farmers have a battle to fight and must fight it with more energy than ever before. Our battle is for economic freedom and in these distressed days, we must have no slackers.

Our method will be to educate, consolidate the organization of the forces of profitable production; the strengthening of planned marketing organizations; a program of thrift through our credit unions, and play a really constructive part in our society when depressing conditions exist.

You should devote all time available on how to obtain economic ownership in fields where we have lost it, and retain that small ownership which still remains with us. If this is to be done, then it is up to those who are prepared to pay their membership dues to see that this organization is made to go forward and it is only through you as an individual that we can achieve our goal. Therefore let us get in line. Form a M.F.U. Local in your com-

munity if this has not already been done. It is easy to discuss the matter with your neighbor. If a meeting is not arranged in your district in the near future (organize your own local right away). At least gather some of your friends together, read this manifesto to them and ask them what they are prepared to do in bettering their conditions.

Then start discussion on various vital problems of interest—send for all literature you need. Raise funds for the necessities of your local. Encourage the young people to attend—send them as delegates to the convention. Get them interested in their future occupation (like other organized groups do). Don't forget the women—they have the same status as the men.

All members of this organization must realize that all members of the Board are farmers and they are devoting all the time and energy they can possibly spare, and money, as far as finances permit, towards reaching our aims and objectives. They realize that without large membership they are helpless in achieving this goal, and it depends on every local member to lend every assistance available to make our membership 100% this year. Do not depend on your executive to do it all. Your problems are their problems and they depend on every member to stand loyal, virile, and militant to back them up in your demands to the powers that be. We must unite and we are anxious more than ever before to see a flourishing local in every community, so that we will not tolerate another depression. We are living in an organized society today — and we must organize or remain the exploited class.

No doubt you are aware that an annual meeting held in Ottawa some time ago decided to provide adequate finances for the setting up of a central or national organization, known as the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, to pay the expenses of a competent manager and set up an office that would take care of matters federally, in which any of our Provincial organizations might be interested. They had also decided that it would be in the

interest of the movement if each of our provincial organizations were known as the Federation of Agriculture, and it is hoped our system, and policies of Direct Action, carrying out the request of the farmers themselves, and having a direct membership, would be adopted. It is also hoped that at some future date we would be amalgamated into one powerful voice of farmers having an inter-provincial farm board of farmer representatives from other provincial farm organizations located in the central part of this Dominion.

Agriculture is the very foundation of our national economy. Without an assured and plentiful supply of food, the entire elaborate economy of modern civilization would collapse. In fact it is a recognized principle of sound economics that the well-being of a country is dependent upon the well-being of its agriculture. In other words it is possible to have an efficient and flourishing economic structure only if its foundation of agriculture is likewise in a virile and prosperous condition. This can easily be demonstrated from the history of our country.

Do not expect results over night—it may be slow to start with but it requires your loyalty, tenacity, intestinal fortitude to put over to others where the farmer stands in our organized society of today. By all means be loyal to your profession and calling. Agriculture is a worthy occupation and you need not be ashamed of it—you feed the world—and in the hollow of your hand you hold the destiny of the nation.

MANITOBA FARMERS' UNION,

Gilbert Plains, Man.

Secretary—A. G. Gray, Gilbert Plains.

Organizer—J. L. Gunia, Gilbert Plains.